

Euroforum



The frontiers of science. See page 3.

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Contents

Prospect	3	Frontiers of science still subject to fear of the unknown
Lifestyle	3	Citizens of the Nine continue to save
Consumers	4	Remedy needed to combat rising drugs consumption The brighter side of dairy surpluses Socialists call for more protection for the shopper
Energy	5	Uncertainty still main feature of supply situation
	6	Learning the lesson of the Three Mile Island accident Minimum stocks give some protection in time of crisis
Reducing barriers	7	Cross-border briefing is now legal for Community's lawyers
Culture	7	A lost language can mean cultural shock for migrants' children
Industry	8	Full speed ahead for car makers New ideas to save jobs in crippled steel industry
Trade	9	Common accord to govern world trading practices
Fishing	9	Angling for the hidden wealth of Europe's waters
	10	£3.3 million to improve fishing industry
Agriculture	10	A switch in time can save the Nine
Attitudes	11	Battle of the sexes: is women's lib a thing of the past?
Taxation	11	It all depends on the taxman's cut
Employment	12	Better 'matchmaking' needed to fill al job vacancies
Third World	13	Breathing new life into the concept of the windmill Mutual assistance in everyone's interest
Education	14	Baby boom helps Ireland keep its scholarly image
Focus	15	The giant European parliamentary 'Quiz Game'

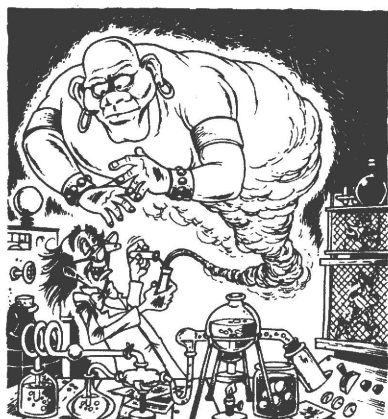
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Editor-in-chief: Peter Doyle

PROSPECT



Frontiers of science still subject to fear of the unknown

European attitudes to science are what you would expect them to be: complex, ambivalent and coloured by hopes as well as fears.

Research into organ transplants, new sources of energy and new materials is welcomed.

But genetic engineering, the use of computers to centralize information on individuals and the manufacture of synthetic foodstuffs is rejected by the majority, because of the risks involved.

These are just some of the findings of a survey of public attitudes to scientific and technological developments in the nine European Community countries.

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While a majority believes that science will continue to make a substantial contribution to their living standards almost as many feel that it may well be at the price of a growing risk to society which may be difficult to contain.

This same ambivalence was evident in the distinction which was made by those questioned between scientific knowledge and the use that is often made of it. If knowledge was felt to be good in itself, it was accompanied by a widespread feeling that some discoveries are being put to use too quickly. Almost everywhere, however, there was considerable faith in the power of science to repair any damage done by it.

Even so, 8 out of 10 persons expressed fears for the future because of environmental pollution, on the one hand, and automation on the other. In four countries—the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland and Denmark—it was the fear of 'the decay of nature through pollution' which predominated.

In four others—France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland—it was the threat of a fresh loss of jobs through automation. Only the Italians seemed equally worried by pollution and automation.

As many as 4 out of 10 thought it would be a 'good thing if one could halt the construction of so many machines and return to nature'. This nostalgia was particularly evident in France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg, much less so in the UK, Ireland and Denmark. It was only among the Germans and Dutch that opinions were fairly equally divided.

The survey was not limited to global attitudes; the public was asked its views on 8 specific areas of research. From their replies the pollsters came to the firm conclusion that the public will support scientific research if it believes that the issue at stake is both real and serious.

Not surprisingly, there was widespread support for research into organ transplants, because it could make it possible for the handicapped to lead normal lives. Research into new sources of energy was also backed by the public, especially if presented as an alternative to nuclear energy.

Public opinion was very divided on the issue of genetic research, however.

Here the risks seemed to outweigh the benefits. This was also the case as regards the use of computers to help bureaucracy in its dealings with the public.

Inevitably, perhaps, public opinion was sharply divided over nuclear power. Supporters (44%) outnumbered opponents (36%) but the margin was relatively narrow. The pollsters concluded that the issue at stake was felt to be real and serious but judgment was clouded by the fear of nuclear power being used for military purposes.

Opinions on these precise issues varied from country to country, of course. But the survey also revealed that people on the whole felt they knew too little about science but wanted nevertheless to be more closely involved in the formulation of research policy—and presumably, therefore, to learn more about science.

LIFESTYLE

Citizens of the Nine continue to save

The inhabitants of the European Community remain a thrifty lot. Despite high rates of unemployment and inflation, they have not lost the savings habit.

Last year deposits with the Community's savings banks rose to £189 000 million. Deposit accounts, which amount to nearly three-quarters of the total, rose by some £13 500 million an increase of 10% over 1977.

The Germans managed to save the most; they put aside just under £100 000 million for the proverbial rainy day.

The French were second with £33 500 million and the Italians third with £31 500 million. The British, who are equally numerous, were well behind the others, however, with just over £5 000 million.

Deposit accounts are the most popular form of savings in all Member States countries, accounting for as much as 98% of all non-banker's deposits in Ireland, for example. However, current account deposits are strongly favoured by both the Italians and Germans.

CONSUMERS



Remedy needed to combat rising drugs consumption

An increasingly bitter pill for European consumers should be their mounting intake of medicines and drugs. Community and national authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about this galloping consumption and the cost burden on the buyer. The last time the European Community Health Ministers got together to study mutual problems in Brussels just before Christmas last year they spent considerable time on this subject. In addition, the European Parliament and the European Commission have both also become involved.

Right now the Commission is putting the finishing touches to measures that would aim at controlling this runaway consumption of pharmaceutical products. It will attempt to do this first by trying to cut the amount of money spent on publicity for these products. It also wants this advertising to be more informative to the consumer and better controlled.

The Commission feels that more standardized and coordinated controls on advertising would help the manufacturers of such products by eliminating the differences from country to country which can act as a barrier to sales

throughout the Community. This would also result in more competition between manufacturers which is ultimately in the consumers' interest.

The Commission hopes that such a first step will also provide a better guarantee for the consumer by requiring improved information rather than advertising primarily directed at stimulating sales.

The brighter side of dairy surpluses

One headache the European Community has to cope with is a surplus of dairy products produced by efficient farmers taking advantage of a favourable pricing system. One solution is to encourage people to consume more milk and butter.

Free milk for schoolchildren helps. All the Member States except Italy have joined in the scheme, which in the 1977-78 school year absorbed 159 000 tonnes of milk. The Community provided £13 million to help subsidize the cost.

All nine Member States adopted a cheap butter scheme over the Christmas period. The British and Germans took most advantage of the offer. They took two-thirds of the 123 000 tonnes which were sold. The

Community provided £33.5 million to help subsidize the cost.

Member State	Amount of cheap butter (tonnes)	Community subsidy (million u.a.)
UK	51 025	10.2
Germany	35 700	12.5
France	18 600	14.0
Italy	6 700	5.0
Belgium	4 150	3.1
Netherlands	3 400	2.6
Denmark	1 800	1.3
Ireland	1 600	1.2
Luxembourg	150	0.1
Total	123 125	50.0

Socialists call for more protection for the shopper

The opening up of borders between the nine Member States of the European Community and the liberalization of trade between them have been of benefit to consumers in the form of a wider range of products in the shops and greater competition between manufacturers.

This point is made by the Socialist Group in the European Parliament in a new booklet on Consumer Policy which it has published as a policy document in the run-up to next June's first direct elections to the European Parliament.

However, while conceding that the creation of the Community has benefited consumers the Socialist Group maintains that it is the producers who have profited most.

To alter the balance, the Socialists call for more unbiased consumer information and more consumer protection against misleading advertising. They would also like to see stronger consumer associations in a better position to take legal action against manufacturers who are guilty of unfair practices. Parallel to this, the group feels that manufacturers should be obliged to take more responsibility for the quality of the goods they produce.

The Socialist Group, which is the largest in the existing Parliament of 198 seats, believes that the direct elections to the new 410-seat Parliament must help to create a Europe of consumers, not solely a Europe of big business.

Uncertainty still main feature of supply situation

Thanks to North Sea oil the European Community's production of energy remained stable last year. But as demand is starting to rise again there is no room for complacency especially as the Community remains highly dependent on energy imports.

In 1978 increased oil production made up to some extent for falls in the production of hydroelectric power and gas. Production of coal, still the most important energy source in the Community, remained unchanged.

Last year the Community's oil production rose by nearly one-third to 64.5 million tonnes. The British accounted for 54.2 million tonnes, their production rising by over 40%.

Italian production, though only very small, rose by more than one-third to 1.5 million tonnes. However, Germany, the second largest producer in the Community, registered a 5% drop in production.

Although oil production is rising rapidly it still accounts for less than half of total coal and gas production which in 1978 totalled 147 and 135 million tonnes of oil equivalent respectively.

The Community also continues to remain highly dependent on imports of crude oil.

Imports in 1978 totalled 475 million tonnes representing over half the total amount of energy it consumed.

One bright note is that the Community's imports of oil have now fallen for three years in succession. Last year the fall was 13 million tonnes. Small but in the right direction. Only Italy imported more oil last year.

Where does all the oil come from? Full figures for 1978 are not yet available but the pattern will be similar to that in 1977.

A surprising feature, perhaps is not how much the Community imports from Saudi Arabia but how little it takes from Norway. In 1977 the Community imported nearly 150 million tonnes from Saudi Arabia (nearly one-third of total imports) but only 7 million tonnes from Norway (1.5%). However, imports from Norway are increasing.

Iran used to be the Community's second most important supplier. In 1977 it provided 78 million tonnes representing 16% of the Community's total imports. But following the revolution and the 10-week stoppage in exports, supplies will be substantially lower this year.

Iraq, Libya and Kuwait are also important suppliers providing nearly one-quarter of the Community's needs.

Nigeria is the biggest African supplier. In 1977 it provided 30 million tonnes (6% of total imports).

The European Commission warned recently that there is an urgent need not only to rebuild stocks in time for next winter but to economize on the use of energy and to develop the Community's own resources so as to reduce dependence on imports.

Such policies are essential. Despite the continued economic recession in Europe energy consumption grew by 2.3% last year regaining the pre-energy crisis 1973 level for the first time.

Economic forecasts for 1979 suggest a growth rate of 3.4% and an increase in energy consumption of 2.9%. In other words we are devouring increasing amounts of energy while supplies are becoming increasingly uncertain.

Oil consumption rose by 2% last year—mainly motor gasolines and heating gasoil—and is expected to rise by the same amount this year. Thanks to North Sea oil the Community has gradually been able to reduce imports but these still account for 82% of supplies.

Natural gas consumption is rising steadily and with the gradual exhaustion of the Dutch Groningen field there has been a massive increase in imports from third countries, notably from Norway.

It is estimated that gas consumption will rise by a further 7% in 1979 and its share in overall energy consumption will be about 18.5%. Industry will account for most of the increase.

What about the other sources of energy? Coal consumption rose slightly in 1978 thanks to demand from electricity producers but demand from the iron and steel industry was slack due to the crisis in this sector. Over 80% of power-station coal is consumed by two Member States—the United Kingdom and Germany.

Community coal production stagnated in 1978 at 174 million tonnes of oil equivalent. The danger is that due to lack of investment the Community's

Energy supply in the Community
(millions of tonnes of oil equivalent)

	1976		1977		1978		1979	
	Production	Net imports*	Production	Net imports*	Production	Net imports*	Production	Net imports*
— Solid fuels	186.8	28.4	174.3	27.7	173.5	26.3	174.7	31.6
— Oil	21.8	520.1	48.6	480.3	63.0	472.0	95.0	450.0
— Natural gas	142.2	11.6	142.2	16.9	135.2	30.6	137.9	38.6
— Primary electricity, etc.	47.4	1.1	61.5	3.8	60.3	3.3	64.4	2.7
TOTAL	398.2	561.2	426.6	528.7	432.0	532.2	472.0	522.9

* Imports minus exports.

ability not only to mine coal but also to consume it will be inadequate. This could have serious consequences if oil supplies run out. Little change is expected in either consumption or production in 1979.

Electricity consumption rose by 4.2% in 1978 and is expected to rise by even more in 1979, due partly to extremely cold weather at the start of the year. It is important that this increase be met by coal, gas and nuclear power-stations; otherwise the Community's dependence on oil imports will grow rather than fall. However, there are three times as many oil-fired power-stations planned than coal fired.

There are continued delays in the nuclear programme, partly due to public uncertainty. Nuclear power-stations will only provide 10% of electricity production in 1979. Production capacity in 1985 is expected to be only about 80 gigawatts, well below the target figure.

Learning the lessons of the Three Mile Island accident

Probably not since the awesome birth of the atomic age over Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than 30 years ago has there been as much public concern about the safety of nuclear power.

The accident at the Three Mile Island power plant in the United States has unleashed its own chain reaction of general unrest. The Pennsylvania nuclear plant's problems have heightened both public and official awareness throughout the world of the need to devote continuing attention to the security of this increasingly important form of energy.

Not only in the United States but throughout Europe the need for security has been recognized as part of official policy on nuclear development.

Following the accident, national and European Community authorities instantly dispatched observers to the site of the American accident to report back on any lessons that Europe can learn from the American situation.

The subject was discussed at length in Luxembourg when Environment Minister of the European Community met there shortly after the accident in one of their regular gatherings.

The European Commissioner in charge of environmental matters, Lorenzo Natali, emphasized that 'public opinion must know that independent control is exercised by qualified organizations'.

In addition, a report prepared by European Commission experts on the American accident stated that there were no plants of exactly the same type as the American one in existence in the Community and that the first indications were that, although grave the accident had had 'remarkably limited' impact on the workers and on the surrounding area.

But the same officials also underlined that the Community's efforts in the past to assure the security of nuclear energy must be intensified. This is exactly what the Commission had proposed recently when it asked for a 28% increase in the joint Community research effort. Right now some 531 persons, including 207 scientists, are involved in this Community nuclear programme, which supplements the national efforts.

Existing programmes which involve research into a number of different aspects of nuclear energy and its safety date back to the beginning of the Euratom cooperation in 1958 between the original six Member States and were being enlarged even before the Three Mile Island reactor accident.

Just recently the Council of Ministers adopted a £3.1 million five-year research programme on the closing down of nuclear power plants since this will become an increasingly important problem as new generations of plants replace the earlier models.

They also approved a £4.2 million programme to focus on the safety of thermal water reactors. These are currently the most popular types of reactors in operation in the Community.

This five-year exercise would concentrate on accidents resulting from the loss of cooling fluid, against explosive clouds from other nearby conventional facilities and against the possibility of leakage.

Another programme was also introduced shortly before the accident to conduct research into protection of workers and of the general public against radiation. This operation would also be conducted over five years in the Community facilities and in national establishments and would cost £45 million.

These activities are part of the pledge the Commission made to concerned

public and environmental representatives during historic open meetings on the safety and future of nuclear energy conducted in Brussels in 1977 and 1978.

Minimum stocks give some protection in time of crisis

The days when oil was cheap and plentiful ended some time ago, although it has taken the sudden interruption in supplies from Iran to drive home the point.

But even before the 1973/74 oil crisis, when prices shot up four-fold, the European Community had embarked on a series of measures to cope with any breakdown in supplies.

Community rules oblige Member States to maintain emergency stocks not only of oil but also of coal. The oil stocks are the equivalent of 90 day's consumption, while the coal and other fossil fuels to be held at power-stations amount to 30 days' consumption by these stations.

It obviously is important to have a clear picture at all times of the situation throughout the Community. Member States must, therefore, keep the Commission regularly informed on such matters as oil supplies, emergency stocks and prices to consumers. Since January this information must be provided once a month.

There are also measures to prevent any disruption in trade between the Member States which could endanger supplies to one or more of them. They were invoked by the Commission earlier this year in fact, when a system of surveillance of oil product exports was introduced for several Member States.

The Commission can also ask them to reduce consumption, and even set a target for this purpose. The reduction can be uniform or graduated, the aim being of course to make sure that the unfavourable effects of any crisis are shared equitably among the Nine.

But as the Commission told the European Parliament recently, the present supply situation does not justify recourse to such measures.

Last month, the European Council set a target of saving up to 25 million tonnes of oil in 1979.

REDUCING BARRIERS



Cross-border briefing is now legal for Community's lawyers

For the past few weeks yet another category of professional worker has been free to work in all nine member countries of the European Community. As a result of a new law, the Community's 125 000 lawyers can like doctors now benefit from the basic Community principle of freedom of movement for all citizens.

This freedom to work in any of the nine Member States has been enjoyed by blue-collar and non-professional white collar workers since 1969 but it is only gradually being acquired by professional workers because of the need for Community-wide acceptance of their qualifications.

Lawyers can now appear in courts anywhere in the Community and a professional identity card has been devised by their own professional associations to make their movement easier.

While, say, a British lawyer will be allowed to appear in a Dutch court which was until recently reserved for Dutch lawyers, he or she will not yet be able to open up an office in the Netherlands.

A foreign lawyer may also be required to team up with a local lawyer when he appears in a foreign court.

Will this mean mass migration of lawyers? Probably not. As the Community doctors have discovered, it's just not that easy to pick up and start working in another country, even if they now have that right.

In 1977, the first full year that doctors had the freedom to work anywhere in the Community, only some 985 out of the total of about 450 000 elected to do so. About one-third of those who did were Irish doctors who migrated to the United Kingdom, which has been a traditional practice.

Wherever doctors go nurses are probably not far behind, and that's the case in Community law as well. From next month, nurses will be able to work in all Community countries. To complete the medical triangle, veterinarians will be granted the same right next year.

In addition, experts are looking at the possibility of allowing the same rights of mobility to architects, midwives, accountants and tax advisers. Just to prove how difficult the exercise is, the cases of pharmacists and opticians had to be dropped because the obstacles were too numerous and insurmountable.

The basic problem, of course, lies in the fact that these professional workers have received their training and certification in one country; but the procedure may be entirely different in another European country. The edu-

cational and professional requirements vary from country to country and each naturally feels that its way is best suited to its needs. Some compromise is needed before they will agree to recognize qualifications acquired elsewhere.

CULTURE

A lost language can mean cultural shock for migrants' children

Probably one of the strangest twists of fate of modern times is one that finds children of migrant workers in Europe eventually returning to their country of origin without knowing the language or culture of that new home.

After years in a European country, the children of these six million workers frequently feel more at home there than in the birthplace of their parents. They often spend their formative years in a European Community country or sometimes are born there.

In recent years there has been a more determined effort by authorities in the Community not only to improve education and training for the adult migrant workers themselves, but also for their families. As an example of this effort, the Community's Social Fund in 1978 spent around £12 million on training for workers and their families, or for training of social workers or teachers of these foreign residents.

Italy, which received more than £5 million and Germany which received recipients of these Social Fund grants, accounting for more than two-thirds of the funds available. Other major beneficiaries were France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Training for adult migrants concentrates on helping them to settle into their new jobs and into the life of their host country. There are special classes to enable them and their families to learn the language of their new country.

In addition, there are a number of pilot programmes of instruction for foreign schoolchildren to enable them to retain their own language and culture. For instance, in Bedford, in the

United Kingdom, Punjabi and Italian children are being taught in their own language in addition to receiving their regular English schooling in the primary grades.

The same type of instruction also takes place for Italian, Serbo-Croatian, Portuguese and Spanish children in Paris and some of its suburbs.

Italian, Greek and Turkish children are getting similar training in the Genk/Waterschei region of Belgium as are Turkish and Moroccan children in Leiden in Holland.

This year, the Social Fund will spend around £15 million (23 million EUA) helping workers and their families.

INDUSTRY

Full speed ahead for car makers

European industry may have fallen on hard times, but at least one sector, car manufacturing, has been cruising in top gear. Last year was another record year for the production of passenger cars, according to CLCA, the European automobile manufacturers' association.

The only national industry to show a drop in production was the British, which CLCA attributes to the number of strikes.

A total of 10 536 464 cars were produced, in the Community, compared with 10 395 256 in 1977. However, the production of commercial vehicles fell by around 4.6%.

This year looks like being another good year for car manufacturing but the recent increases in the price of oil could have an effect on results.

New ideas to save jobs in crippled steel industry

Probably no industrial crisis in Europe has gained as much attention recently as has the plight of the steel industry. For months — and even years — there have been expressions of concern and labour demonstrations on the one hand and, on the other, a lot of planning and some investment to lessen the impact of the crisis on the workers and on the economy in general.

Only the massive shifts away from coal mining a decade or two ago and the present deterioration of the textile and shipbuilding industries come near the magnitude of the steel slump.

Provoked by increasing competition from lower-priced products coming from emerging powers in the developing world, such as Korea, Taiwan and Brazil, the European steel industry has been in the throes of a decline for the last three years.

In 1978 some 39 200 jobs were lost in the European Community steel industry following a reduction of 36 500 the previous year. This total of over 75 000 in the past two years is unfortunately expected to be followed by a further decline of more than 80 000 in 1979 and 1980 out of a total workforce in the industry of around 750 000.

The problems of the industry are widespread throughout Europe and have affected many other steel producers outside Europe. Because of this, the European Commission, as well as the national authorities, have been involved in trying to grapple with the crisis.

The Commission authorities in Brussels has been active on a number of different fronts. First of all, under the

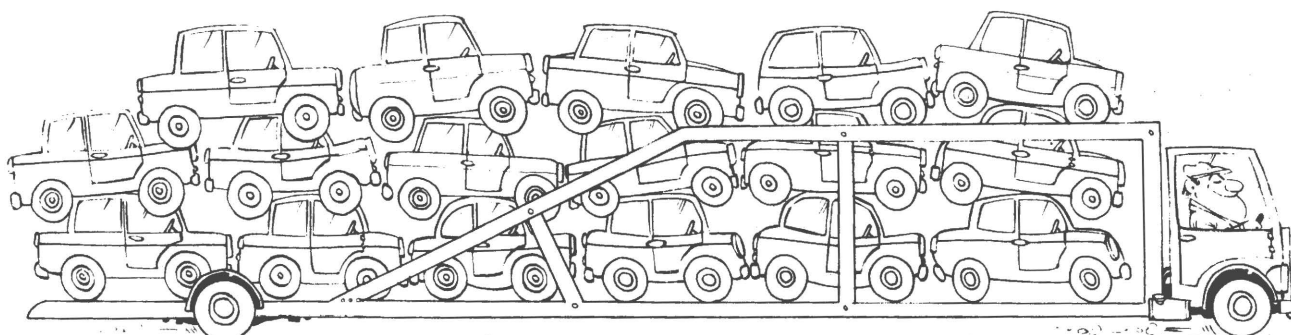
Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, it has the responsibility for planning and organizing the transition through this troubled period. Secondly, acting on behalf of the Community industry and governments, it has negotiated accords with a number of steel-producing and exporting countries throughout the world to limit shipments into the Community. It also instituted a system of minimum prices to protect European producers from being undercut by low-priced steel from outside.

In addition, it has been heavily involved in the planning and financing of programmes that aim directly at helping the people involved in the industry. These include retraining or transition projects that help the unemployed workers go through a difficult period and prepare for a new job in another field.

Now the Commission wants not only to continue with these traditional programmes but to undertake some new approaches to the problem. It is therefore asking the Member States to approve funds totalling £65 million for 1979 and almost £40 million for 1980 for these activities. It believes that some 50 000 workers in 1979 and 30 000 in 1980 should benefit.

The new measures that are being contemplated involve early retirement and certain types of work-sharing thus helping to save jobs rather than merely reacting to the loss of steel employment.

For example, the reorganizing of the work cycle in the steel industry by introducing an additional shift would create jobs. In addition, by reducing the length of each shift, steelwork would become more attractive to younger workers, whom the industry currently has trouble recruiting. These measures would also be accompanied by part-time work opportunities, reduction in the working week and restrictions on overtime.



TRADE

Common accord to govern world trading practices

Long-winded international negotiations that drone on and on for six years about esoteric subjects like tariff reductions countervailing duties or technical standards may seem distant or of little importance to the public.

But, in fact, the results of the recently-concluded world trade talks known as the Tokyo Round mean a lot for millions of workers in Europe and around the world.

These discussions held within the framework of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), which focused the attention of governments of most of the world's trading nations on trade problems during the past six years, means that goods should be able to travel more freely than they have ever been able to before.

The talks represented the most important effort in history to make the benefits of freer trade subject to commonly accepted rules of law that will make it easier to buy and sell goods across national frontiers.

Speaking for the European Commission which negotiated on behalf of the nine member countries of the European Community, European Commission President Roy Jenkins observed that the result of the talks will mean 'a fairer and more stable world system in the 1980s'. If the GATT talks seem of little relevance to the man-in-the-street, one should remember that the Community conducts more international trade than anyone else in the world and millions of jobs in regions all over Europe depended on the outcome of the Tokyo Round.

Sales of European-made clothes, automobiles, medications, electronics and other goods which are the backbone of the Community economy should increase as a result of the removal of certain trade barriers in markets like the United States, Japan, Canada and elsewhere. More sales abroad mean more jobs at home.

In any negotiations, a fair bargain requires mutual concessions. In this case it means that foreign goods will also have to be given more equal treatment alongside European products

on the home market. European products will therefore have to become better or cheaper or else face increasing competition from more efficient producers in Japan, the United States or the developing countries.

While opening world trade to more competition, which all the negotiators felt was to their mutual benefit, they have also been working on ways of ensuring that certain industries are not overwhelmed by unfair competition or by a flooding of their home markets from abroad. This means that the new law for world trade won't be the law of the jungle.

One frequently-overlooked effect of more open competition from foreign products is that the consumer has a greater range of goods, in terms of both quality and price, from which to choose.

While the tariff reductions of some 35% which the participants in the talks negotiated should have a major impact on trade, they all feel that the main result of their long effort was the series of rules they adopted to eliminate protectionist practices that disrupted trade.

They negotiated codes which opened up the formerly protected government markets in each country to competition from other countries, codes which require certain limits to subsidies for exports and codes that put more order into the system of customs evaluation and technical safety standards for imports.

While all countries which took part in the talks have yet to sign these accords, enough major trading partners such as the United States and Japan have done so to ensure that it will affect most of the Community's trade. Work is still underway to add the finishing touches that will enable more and more countries to participate in this new and better trading system.

IN BRIEF

The European Community's gross domestic product grew by 2.8% last year. It is expected to improve to 3.5% this year.

FISHING

Angling for the hidden wealth of Europe's waters

With the depletion in fish stocks and declining catches the European Community is looking into the possibility of exploiting untapped fish resources.

According to the latest figures published by the European Commission the fish catch fell for the fourth successive year in 1977 to 4.8 million tonnes. This represented about 7% of the total world catch of 73.5 million tonnes.

Only three Member States—Netherlands, Italy and Belgium—increased their catch in 1977. The largest drop was recorded by the leading fishing nation—Denmark. Its fish catch fell by 100 000 tonnes (mainly fish for industrial use) and made up over half the total decline recorded by the Community.

The 1977 catches of the Nine Member States (in 000 tonnes live weight) are given in our table:

Denmark	1 806.6
United Kingdom	1 003.6
France	760.3
Germany	432.1
Italy	427.0
Netherlands	313.0
Ireland	95.5
Belgium	45.4

To try and reverse the trend of falling catches, the Commission is playing an active part in setting up and coordinating research programmes for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. Research is being carried out by national experts.

At a Community level the Commission is carrying out a study into the potential for developing catches off the Irish coast.

Research is also being carried out into overcoming difficulties concerning the catching and processing of some species such as blue whiting which has so far prevented them being exploited commercially.

The Commission is also trying to develop sea farming. It is taking part in a research programme organized by the 19-member body COST (European

Cooperation in Scientific and Technical Research).

Within the framework of this programme the Commission should put forward proposals this year for a three-year scheme to develop shellfish and salmon sea-farming.

£3.3 million to improve fishing industry

More than £3.3 million will shortly be paid out to help the fishing industry in the European Community.

Of the total of 43 coastal projects to be assisted, the vast majority—36, which will receive aid to the tune of £1 600 000—are in Ireland.

The other recipients are Italy, where four projects are being funded to the tune of £1.3 million, Denmark where the one project is receiving £187 000 and the United Kingdom which will divide £180 000 between two schemes.

The money is being granted from the Community's Farm Fund to be used mainly to build and buy fishing-boats.

However, the Commission is also keen to help fish farmers. Thus, the money which will go to Italy is to be used for four fish-farming projects. There are two similar schemes in Ireland where oysters, trout and scallops are being reared.

IN BRIEF

Unemployment in the European Community increased from 5.3% in 1977 to 5.5% last year. The rate has been fairly stable since last July. The rate is expected to drop slightly to 5.4% for 1979.

The President of the European Commission Roy Jenkins is to pay an official visit to Egypt, probably in early autumn. He has also received invitations from other countries in the area and has accepted them in principle.

Wages and salaries in the European Community increased by around 11% in 1978, compared with a fall from a 12.5% to a 10.9% increase between 1976 and 1977.

AGRICULTURE

A switch in time can save the Nine

It can be a bit of a dog's life being a cow in Europe. Your main job is to produce milk, which Europeans, especially children, are encouraged to drink to make them healthy. But if you are too good at it, then there is too much milk around and ways are sought to curb your production.

One fairly drastic solution is to lead you off to the local abattoir. Another is more pleasant, you merely change jobs and breed beef cattle.

Both methods have been encouraged over the last two years by the European Commission, which, in a bid to reduce the Community's massive milk surplus, has tried to reduce the number of dairy cattle by 1 300 000.

To do this it started back in July 1977 to offer farmers premiums to withdraw their cows from milk production. By the end of March this year it was estimated that 750 000 cows had been taken out of the dairy sector. This represents a little over 3% of the Community's 25 million cows, but is still some way short of the original target.

The Commission is not, however, too dismayed at these results and has recommended that the scheme be continued for another year. Among the reasons it has advanced for the poor response so far are: the plentiful supply of cheap fodder and feedstuffs; the large share of the premiums farmers had to pay in tax; and the advice given by the dairy industry not to participate.

The scheme is an important part of the Commission's overall plan to reduce structural surpluses of certain agricultural products. These are most pressing in the dairy sector, where despite the withdrawal of such a large number of cows, deliveries of milk to dairies last year increased by 5%.

Farmers in Germany appear to have been the most enthusiastic towards the Commission scheme. Of the 55 000 in the Community who used it, 36 000 were German (they withdrew 300 000 cows). Figures elsewhere were: the United Kingdom 3 000 producers (67 000 cows), France 9 000 producers (154 000 cows), Denmark 3 000 producers (44 000 cows), Netherlands 1 900 producers (31 000 cows), Belgium 1 400 producers (19 000 cows), Ireland 380 producers (9 000 cows) and Luxembourg 260 producers (3 000 cows).



ATTITUDES



Battle of the sexes: is women's lib a thing of the past?

Do people approve of women in politics? Do they think women's lib a good thing? How often do husbands help their wives with the housework? And what are the household tasks at which husbands should replace wives?

The answers to these — and to scores of other equally fascinating questions — are to be found in a book with the edestrian title 'European Women and Men in 1978'.

What it contains are the results of a massive survey of the attitudes of men and women in the nine European Community countries to a wide range of social and political issues of topical importance.

The survey, which has just been published, was carried out for the European Commission at the end of 1977. It was the second of its kind, so that it is possible to see how attitudes have changed between 1975 and 1977.

On the key issue of women's place in society the shift in attitudes has been slight but significant. Since 1975 the proportion of men and women who believe that changes are *not* taking place fast enough has declined. Most people, in other words, feel the rate of change to be just right.

This conservatism was confirmed by the replies to a more specific question. Asked whether they would have more confidence in a male or female member of the European Parliament, both men and women opted for a male MP.

A higher proportion of men in fact favoured a male member than in 1975. And if more women claimed they would have more confidence in one of

their own sex, they were still in a minority (16%).

The results suggest that women's lib has had little impact on public opinion. The survey showed that the public was more sympathetic to the ecologists than to the feminists.

Nine out of 10 were favourably impressed by the various ecological movements, but only half as many were as favourably impressed by the feminist movements. Surprisingly, in virtually all nine countries women were no more favourably impressed by feminist movements than men.

Nevertheless the pollsters discovered that the majority of women either want to continue working, if they already have a job, or would like to work. Nearly all of those who work enjoyed a substantial measures of job satisfaction.

Even so, only one woman out of three does have a job. Among housewives, 5 out of 10 are very happy to stay at home. Those who are the most satisfied with their status as housewives seemed to be those who are under 30 and married women without children.

Housework, far from being a chore, was regarded as a very pleasurable activity by 6 women out of 10. Their enthusiasm was shared by as many as 4 men out of 10. Only a minority of women felt housework—which had been defined to exclude looking after children—to be a chore.

As to the question of just how often men do in fact help with the housework, opinions differed. Men, as you might have guessed, tended to exaggerate: 33% of them claimed they often helped their wives. But the proportion was much smaller in fact, judging from the replies given by their wives—a mere 24%.

All of which would suggest that the majority of women subscribe to the view that their place is in the home. But the survey also took a close look at the role of women in politics.

To the question whether national parliaments would function more effectively if there were more women MPs, 35% of the women thought they would (as against 19% of the men). Ironically, it was the men who seemed to think that the presence of women make Parliament a more serious place.

However, a majority of both men and women agreed that with more women in Parliament problems hitherto neglected (but not specifically related to women) would be taken up at last.

Oh, yes, the household task which husbands should take over from their wives... You guessed correctly. It's dishwashing.

TAXATION

It all depends on the taxman's cut

Irish executives are financially worse off than any of their other European Community colleagues, according to an international index of incomes and buying power recently released by the Brussels-based Management Centre Europe.

The index is based on the findings of international salary surveys. It then takes actual gross incomes, applies tax and social security charges and ranks each country against current cost of living patterns for goods and services based on real earnings.

What emerges from this thorough analysis is that executives in France and Italy are more than twice as well off as their counterparts in Ireland. In other words, they are in a position to buy or save twice as much.

The only countries in Europe with a lower rating than Ireland are the three Scandinavian nations. In Sweden, a senior executive has a gross salary double that of an Irish businessman but, after paying all his taxes, his actual purchasing power is 18% lower.

The actual buying power of senior executives, according to the survey is as follows (Ireland = base of 100):

Ireland	100
Austria	127
Belgium	160
France	203
Germany	178
Italy	224
Netherlands	125
Spain	296
Switzerland	211
United Kingdom	137
Denmark	139
Finland	82
Norway	70
Sweden	82
USA	307

EMPLOYMENT



Better 'matchmaking' needed to fill all job vacancies

Are jobs going begging, simply because those looking for work don't know about them? Or because their skills don't match those required by their potential employer? Or because of a 'mismatch' in working conditions?

We highlighted this problem in an earlier issue of *Euroforum*, when we pointed out that although there are six million unemployed in the European Community, a total of half a million vacancies remain unfilled.

The fear that some of these vacancies remain unfilled because people don't know about them prompted an Irish member of the European Parliament, Mr Tom Nolan, to ask the European Commission recently whether firms should not be required to notify job vacancies to the employment exchanges.

This is already the case in France and Italy, for example. But in the Commission's view coercive measures are seldom the most effective, and it points to the fact that throughout the Community the emphasis has been on improving the image of employment exchanges.

Their effectiveness depends, in other words, on the quality of the services they offer and the means at their disposal. If employers and workers

believe employment exchanges can deliver the goods, both will turn to them more readily.

The importance of developing employment exchanges and similar agencies was recognized by the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in 1977. But more effective employment exchanges will not of themselves eliminate unfilled vacancies.

As the Commission has pointed out in a Communication to the Standing Committee on Employment, which brings together at regular intervals representatives of the Commission, the nine national governments, employers and trade unions. Better match-making is just as important.

The Commission in fact has got employment exchanges in the various Member States to cooperate on a study on 'mismatch unemployment'. Meanwhile, in its own Communication it has outlined some of the solutions to the problem it wants the Standing Committee to look at when it meets next week.

Job seekers and job vacancies can be mismatched in three different ways according to the Commission.

With workers now better educated and accustomed to higher living standards there can be a mismatch if working conditions require undue physical exertion or generate nervous fatigue. Restrictions on immigration will have to go hand in hand with improvements to working conditions.

There can also be a mismatch in training and skills. High unemployment levels have made employers more demanding. Young women and the long-term unemployed are especially affected by this.

More working wives has meant less geographical mobility, resulting in increased geographical mismatch. Jobs and job seekers are in different regions, if not different countries.

The Commission believes that measures to reduce mismatch should focus on instruments—vocational guidance and training, aids to mobility, etc.—rather than on specific categories of workers, such as the young. The latter can only be at the expense of some other category, whereas more effective vocational training schemes, for example, will benefit everyone.

Financial aid is less effective in encouraging geographical mobility than measures which make workers feel more at home in their new location, according to the Commission. In any case, with workers more ready to change jobs than to move house it believes the emphasis should be on vocational guidance and training.

The Commission favours more training programmes, designed to meet real—i.e. present and future—needs. It also wants vocational information and guidance programmes extended and brought up to date—as regards the guidance given to girls, for example.

In its Communication to the Standing Committee the Commission stresses the need for better identification of job opportunities, with vacancies clearly listed.

And as many are looking for part-time work, the Commission wants employers to try harder to create part-time jobs.

IN BRIEF

The European Community's net fuel imports cost around £33 000 million annually. This means that every 1% increase in the oil price adds about £33 million to the bill.

Inflation in the European Community fell last year to 7.5% from 10.8% in 1977. The rate is likely to remain around 7% this year.

Breathing new life into the concept of the windmill

There is no shortage of hot air—and not just in politics—blowing around the world which might at last be put to more constructive use.

Wind power is one of several alternative sources of energy and along with solar power is of special interest to developing countries with few natural resources.

The Sahel countries in West Africa have been using wind power to help solve their water shortage. Wind power is used to produce electricity to run pumps which bring up water from wells deep under the sand.

Wind power has several attractions. It can be harnessed directly into energy and does not require costly equipment to transform it into mechanical energy.

Wind, unlike solar energy, has a high energy density and does not have to be collected over a wide area. It is also one of the rare forms of energy which is non-polluting.

There are some disadvantages, however. Wind does not blow regularly, which means that sites for collecting wind power must be chosen carefully. Offshore sites appear to be the most suitable, and islands especially because more space is available and there are fewer problems of safety, noise and interference.

Because wind is irregular, efficient and cheap storage systems are needed. Problems of size and design have still to be overcome.

Wind power is included in the European Community's programme for energy cooperation with developing countries. The European Community is financing a study into the use of wind and solar power for a telecommunications network in the Comoro Islands near Madagascar.

Under the Lomé Convention the Community is financing 17 small-scale energy projects mainly in the rural sector. They cover farm irrigation, human and livestock drinking water supplies, housing, general electricity supplies and telecommunications.

Solar and wind energy are well suited for small, dispersed village communities which are not served by traditional energy supply networks.

In Mauritania a small 10 Kw solar energy pump was put into service last December. It will provide water to irrigate 20 hectares of rice fields in the Senegal river valley.

In Malawi a solar energy pump will be put into service at the end of this year. It will provide hot water for hospitals in the district of Mangochi and Nsahje.

A study is planned on a solar energy based air conditioning system for a farm research centre in Barbados.

The Community is also helping to finance five small solar energy projects with non-governmental aid organizations such as 'Operation 2000' and the 'Iles de Paix'. The projects involve the setting up of solar energy pumps in Senegal and Mali to serve the needs of small farmers and hospitals.

Mutual assistance in everyone's interest

As developing countries have for the most part taken over control of energy production and pricing there has been growing friction between them and developed countries. The sharp escalation of oil prices has had a severe effect on the European economy.

Yet both sides have a mutual interest in cooperating rather than fighting over energy supplies and prices. On the one hand, Europe needs regular and reasonably priced supplies of oil and other sources of energy. On the other, developing countries need European expertise in discovering, exploiting and marketing their energy resources.

At the European Council in Paris last March Community leaders called for a closer dialogue between consumer and producer countries.

The European Commission has responded to this call with proposals for an energy action programme to be carried out with developing countries. It is partly based on the results of a visit made by Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner to Venezuela and Ecuador earlier this year when possible means of energy cooperation were discussed.

The Commission suggests that European experts be sent out to help developing countries draw up energy balance-sheets and draft energy policies.

Aid could be provided in carrying out geological surveys and mining exploration so as to establish an inventory of the countries' energy resources. Developing country technicians could also come to Europe to be trained.

Three members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)—Venezuela, Ecuador and Nigeria—as well as the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) have already expressed an interest in cooperating with the Community.

For instance Nigeria has said it would like Community assistance in prospecting for uranium. In 1973-75 large-scale general surveys were carried out. Specific low level airborne electronic surveys must now be carried to identify precise uranium targets. Trial drillings would then be conducted. The Community could also train Nigerians in uranium exploration techniques.

IN BRIEF

The European Commission is to give emergency aid worth £200 000 to help drought victims in Ghana, particularly to combat yellow fever and to prevent the spread of other contagious diseases.

The European Commission is giving £500 000 to help victims of civil strife in the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Recently-liberated Uganda is to receive food aid from the European Community worth around £200 000. The European Commission will also send a team to Uganda to agree on emergency measures needed to put Uganda back on its economic feet.

EDUCATION



A brief look at the statistics implies that boys are more studious than girls. In all Community countries, except France and Ireland, there was a higher share of the former in the 5 to 24 year old age bracket receiving full-time education in 1978.

Details of the numbers of foreign pupils and students in the Nine Community countries are sparse and composite figures only exist for three of them. The vast majority (950 000) are in France, although Belgium's figure of 235 000 is impressive given the size of the country. In Luxembourg there are 17 900.

PUBLICATIONS

The Race for Europe
John Cooney
Dublin University Press, £1.25 p.

This is the only guide to the direct elections to be published in book-form by an Irish journalist. It provides the reader with an up-to-date account of the candidates—both in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland. It also explains how the European Community works and describes the way the Parliament operates. There is a foreword by Commissioner Richard Burke recommending the book, which is by the Irish Times correspondent in Brussels.

For those of you who are interested to know more about how Spain and Portugal are preparing for their eventual accession to the European Community 'The Economic Transformation of Spain and Portugal' may provide the answers. Written by Eric N. Baklanoff and published by Praeger, £13, 204 pages, it examines the way in which the two countries have reacted to the pace of industrialization and urbanization in Europe as a whole. It also looks at the economic evolution in Spain since the Civil War and in Portugal since the Republic, and examines the vulnerability of the Iberian economies *vis-à-vis* fluctuations in the international economy and in world energy supplies.

'Sources of Information on the European Communities', edited by Doris M. Palmer and published by Mansell at £11.90, 230 pages, is an invaluable guide for those carrying out research on the European Community.

Baby boom helps Ireland keep its scholarly image

Ireland used to be known as the Island of Saints and Scholars, a tribute to its missionaries who roamed continental Europe during the Dark Ages. The description may still be true, at least as far as the scholars are concerned.

A larger section of the population in Ireland receives full-time education than in any other country in the European Community. Almost one person in four is either at school, college or university. Elsewhere, the figure is either just over or just under one in five, except for Luxembourg where it is one in six.

This is, however, largely due to the fact that over half the Irish population is under 30. If a different yardstick is taken—the percentage of the population between 5 and 24 receiving full-time education—then the picture is considerably different.

Luxembourg is still placed at the bottom of the Community table, with only 57% of people in this age bracket following formal classes.

Germany and Ireland come next with 62%, just behind Italy (63%), Belgium (64%) and France (65%). Leading the Community is Denmark (68%), followed by the United Kingdom (67%) and the Netherlands (66%).

In pure numerical terms, the highest number of pupils and students is in the United Kingdom (11.5 million). It is in Germany, however, that children appear to continue studying the longest, with 6.7 million (59% of those in education) at secondary level and over 1 million (9.4%) at universities and colleges.

In both France and Italy there are a little under one million higher education students representing 9%, but in the United Kingdom, a country of comparable size, only 550 000 (4.5%). The highest percentage is in Denmark where the country's 119 000 students equal 11.4% of all those receiving full-time education.

The number of pupils and students rose by 12% throughout the Community between 1971 and 1978, with the largest increase, 17.5%, registered in Ireland. Germany (16.1%), the Netherlands (15.6%) and Italy (15.4%) were not far behind. The lowest rise was in Belgium, 2.6%.

FOCUS

The giant European parliamentary 'Quiz Game'

What is the amount of tapioca imported from Taiwan? Is it true that 5 million kilos of haddock were destroyed in Germany in 1978? What is the rent of the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg per square foot?

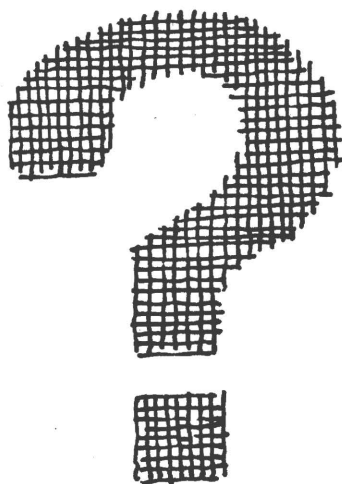
No, this isn't part of a radio quiz game, but an example of questions asked by members of the European Parliament in 1978. In all, more than 1 000 written questions were asked and all received a written reply from the European Commission.

During the current debate when the powers of the new directly-elected European Parliament are being discussed this existing right is frequently overlooked. The right to ask questions is one of Parliament's most important powers, however, enabling it to exercise some democratic control on the progress of the European Community.

Sometimes, the Community is virtually powerless to do anything about the questions raised. This was the case, for example, when an Italian Parliamentarian asked the Commission if it knew that Italian postal services were so disorganized that it took 18 days for a letter posted in Italy to arrive in Luxembourg. It was also true when a member from Luxembourg drew its attention to the abuse of power by French police who confiscated automobiles driven by Frenchmen living in Luxembourg and bearing Luxembourg plates but travelling in Lorraine.

In both cases, the Parliamentarians asked the Commission what it planned to do to end these situations. Not much actually: the Commission has little influence over national administrations in matters not covered by the Community Treaties. But the fact of the Parliament having raised the incidents or the bureaucratic deficiencies of the Member States sometimes provides a stimulus for the responsible authorities to put an end to them.

On the other hand, in many cases the problems cited can be resolved by the Community. One case handled by the Commission which was alerted by a member of Parliament recently involved egg markings.



In principle, thanks to a Community regulation, eggs sold in the nine Community countries are required to carry a number indicating the week of the year when they were packaged to allow the customer to judge their freshness. However, a German member showed how, through the complex regulation which spoke of a 'conventional' beginning of a week and a 'tolerance of four days', eggs packaged on the 23rd of December had been sold as if they had been packaged during the first week in January 1978, because the first of January 1978 was a Sunday.

There are other examples of Parliamentarians exercising their power to protect consumers. One French deputy expressed amazement that the Commission was planning to help control unwarranted price increases in medications by creating another expert group, composed of representatives of the pharmaceutical industry but which included no representatives of the buyers, such as the consumers or insurance companies.

The Commission itself doesn't escape Parliamentary criticism. It has traditionally advocated equality of treatment for male and female workers. But one recent question asked was 'How many women are employed in the Commission administration?' As a result, the Commission was forced to admit that no woman was in the top grade levels and that only some 6% of its female employees were university graduates, except in the interpreting staff where the percentage was 56%.

Sometimes the Parliamentary questions are self-serving. One such question inquired: 'Does the Commission expect to organize a special air service between Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg airports for the convenience of Parliamentarians on duty?' The Commission's reply was curt and diplomatic: 'Consult the appropriate services in the Parliament'.

Still on the same subject of diplomacy, Question 745 from a British Lord noted that 'The Council of Ministers stated (in a reply to another Parliamentary question) that the number of diplomats from the Community member countries posted in the rest of the Community was a subject that was not relevant to political cooperation. If political cooperation (which deals with the coordination of the Nine's foreign policy) isn't based on contacts between diplomats for the different Member States, then what is it based on?', he asked.

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Press and information offices of the European Community

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